

Island protests may turn nasty

'Not all Hawaiians' agree to non-violence

By Paula Gillingham
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Prayers, chants, marches and demonstrations — these are the methods native Hawaiians have employed to gain recognition for sovereignty, land and water rights.

But those are peaceful tactics could give way to more aggressive actions if Hawaii's lawmakers continue to ignore the native Hawaiian agenda, said A'o Pohaku Rodenhurst.

Heeding what she said is the call of her gods, Rodenhurst, the *kahu* for the native Hawaiian sovereignty group "Nation of Ku,"



Rodenhurst

spoke at the Makapu'u Heiau. She said that last week's Hamakua Sugar Co. land auction is only one example of exploitation of native Hawaiian title and land holders.

Native Hawaiians tried to block Wednesday's auction of Hamakua Sugar Co. lands because they said the titles for those lands were not clear for sale.

More than 60 people, representing 23 Hawaiian-rights groups, participated in the protest. Some yelled and others chanted while Hamakua sales

commissioner Philip Gray strained to be heard by two bidders.

The 30,500 acres of agricultural land, the biggest land sale in decades, were sold to Sanford Davis, special assets administrator bidding for the Western Farm Credit Bank, which is owed \$110 million by Hamakua Sugar.

Davis entered a \$20 million bid. Opponents said they would seek to block court confirmation of the sale.

Rodenhurst said yesterday that the native Hawaiians who showed up at the auction and tried to block the sale are the "peaceful, non-violent Hawaiians."

"But not all Hawaiians are committed to non-violence," she said. "I'm talking guns."

Rodenhurst would not name the groups she said are organizing "small armies" of armed Hawaiians, and she said they didn't know she would briefly refer to them yesterday.

Another Hawaiian activist group, reacting to Rodenhurst's comments, issued a statement yesterday rejecting the use of violence.

"We are dedicated to peace and non-violence," said the Independent Nation State of Hawaii, headed up by Dennis "Bumpy" Kanahale.

Rodenhurst said the *heiau* she spoke from yesterday provides guidance to both Hawaiians and non-Hawaiians. She said it is a public place open to



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Ten-year-old Po'okela Rodenhurst puts a lei on a sacred stone at the Makapu'u Heiau.

all who seek healing and counseling at *heiau*, whose stones represent gods. Rodenhurst said those gods prodded her into speaking up for her people.

"This is not about shoving Hawaiians to the back of Waimanalo," she said. "This is not about being nice little Hawaiians."

Rodenhurst said that the state has a legal obligation to do thorough title searches on the lands it puts up for sale. She said Realtors should do thorough research on the properties they are commissioned to sell.

"Ask any Hawaiian and they have 60 or more relatives all over the place," Rodenhurst said. "They find out they have aunts and uncles here and there. They find out they have land. But there's no network to finding out how they can claim it."

Rodenhurst said that placing legal notices in the newspaper is not an effective method of reaching native Hawaiians who might have an interest in different land sales. She said there should be television shows.

"Like 'America's Most Want-

ed,'" she said. "They put the names on the so people can see. Then people can let each other know there's interest in them."

Rodenhurst asserted many Hawaiians are aware they are landless. That is why, she said, there were so many protests.

Hamakua Sugar Co. announced the sale of Hamakua lands will always bother the Hawaiian people," she said. "I'm concerned for those lands. But the point is, if Hamakua is to be sold, then all the land should be